PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the ERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTH	ORITY						
То:		PCT					
see form PCT/ISA/220		INTERNATION (F	TEN OPINION OF THE NAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY PCT Rule 43 <i>bis</i> .1)				
		Date of mailing (day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)					
Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220		FOR FURTHER A See paragraph 2 below					
International application No. PCT/GB2005/000313	International filing date (d 28.01.2005	day/month/year) Priority date (day/month/year) 28.01.2004					
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B42D9/00, B42C19/02 Applicant IBIS INTEGRATED BINDERY SYSTEMS LIMITED							
Applicant IBIS INTEGRATED BINDERY SYSTEMS LIMITED 1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items: Box No. Basis of the opinion							
Name and mailing address of the ISA:		Authorized Officer					

European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Acton, P

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8119



International application No. PCT/GB2005/000313

IAPS Rec'd PCTIPTO 28 JUL 2006

-		ZO JUL 20
_	Box	No. I Basis of the opinion
1	. With the la	regard to the language , this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in nguage in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
		This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following anguage , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2.	With neces	regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and seary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
		e of material:
		a sequence listing
		table(s) related to the sequence listing
	b. forn	nat of material:
		in written format
		in computer readable form
	c. time	of filing/furnishing:
		contained in the international application as filed.
		filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
		furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3.	cor	addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto seen filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional propriate, were furnished.
4. /	Addition	pal comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE STERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No. PCT/GB2005/000313

_						w
_	Box	No. IV	Lack of unity of i	nventi	on	·
1	. ⊠	In resp	onse to the invitation	(Form	PCT/ISA/2	206) to pay additional fees, the applicant has:
			paid additional fees.			
			paid additional fees	under	protest.	
		Ø	not paid additional for	es.		
2.		This Au	thority found that the	requir al fees	ement of u	unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite
3.	This	Author	ity considers that the	require	ement of u	nity of invention in accordance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
	Ос	omplied	l with			
☐ not complied with for the following reasons:						
		see sep	parate sheet			
4.	Con	sequent	ly, this report has be	en esta	blished in	respect of the following parts of the international application:
□ all parts.						
	⊠ tł	ne parts	relating to claims No	s. 1-25	,36	
					•	
		No. V strial a	Reasoned statement	ent und	der Rule 4 explanation	3bls.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or one supporting such statement
	State	ement				
	Nove	elty (N)		Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-25,36
	Inver	ntive ste	p (IS)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1,2,3,8-12,18,19,21
	Indus	strial app	olicability (IA)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-25,36

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

- Certain published documents (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.10) and /or
- 2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.9) see form 210

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: WO 0134403

D2: US 2001/0048862 D3: US A 5 044 873 D4: US 2003/0044260

To point IV

1. This Authority considers that there are 2 inventions covered by the claims.

The reasons for which the inventions are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, as required by Rule 13.1. PCT, are as follows:

1.1 Claim 18 refers to a binding apparatus for binding sheets together and claim 26 refers to a sheet collector. Claims 18 and 26 have only the following common feature:

a sheet collector.

- 1.2 The claims address the following problems:
 - Claim 18 addresses the problem of providing an apparatus for binding sheets
 - Claim 26 addresses the problem of providing a sheet collector

In view of these different problems addressed, the technical interrelationship between the subject matter of claims 18 and 26 does not involve any of the same and/or corresponding technical features other than the one mentioned under 1.1.

- 1.3 A sheet collector per se is well known in the art: see e.g. D1 ref sign 15, fig 1.
- 1.4 Hence the technical interrelationship between the common features of claims 18 and 26 does not involve any common special technical feature in the sense of Rule 13.2. PCT.

To point V

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)

PCT/GB2005/000313

2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1, 2, 3, 8-12, 18, 19 and 21 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

2.1 Document D2 discloses:

A process for binding sheets together, the binding process comprising the steps of: feeding sheets of paper folded along a fold line (20a) applying adhesive (gluing station 24) to the fold line of selected sheets as they are passed over a supporting surface (10) and stacking successive sheets such that the fold lines of each sheet are substantially aligned (this happens as a folded product 20b is placed the folded sheet 20a).

The subject matter of claim 1 differs therefrom in that the sheets are first folded before adhesive is applied to them.

Obviously, for a printed sheet (printers do print on **flat** webs or sheets) to be available in the form of a **folded** sheet, it will be necessary to first fold it. An apparatus for folding sheets is well known in the filed of binding, see particularly D3 fig 5 and column 4, line 60 to column 5 line 20, D4 fig 1 (ref sign 10) §0029, §0030.

Therefore, it would be obvious for the skilled person confronted with the problem of folding the sheets before applying adhesive to them to use a folding apparatus as disclosed in any of the previously cited documents hence getting to the method of claim 1 without the need of any inventive activity.

- 2.2 The same argumentations apply mutatis mutandis to the binding apparatus of claim 18. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 18 is not inventive.
- 2.3 Document D2 also discloses that the adhesive is applied to the outside of the fold line (claims 2, 19, 21), that a cover is fed to the folding apparatus (see ref. sign 22 and station 26) (claims 8 and 9), that pressure is applied to the spine of the aligned folds (pressure roller 27) (claims 10, 11, 12).

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)

PCT/GB2005/000313

Moreover, applying the adhesive inside the fold instead of outside (claim 3) does not involve any inventive activity since it represents simply one of the two possibilities the skilled person would have: i.e. either to apply the adhesive inside or outside the fold.

Therefore, the subject matter of claims 2, 3, 8-12, 19 and 21 is not inventive.

3. Claims 4 and 19 disclose a biding method and a binding apparatus wherein the adhesive is applied inside the fold through a slot of the supporting surface. Since all documents sited in the search report show the application of adhesive from the opposite side of the fold with respect to the supporting surface, the binding method/apparatus comprising the step above appears to comply with the requirements of Art 33 (2)(3) PCT.